

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Municipal Retail Trade Institute	DATE DISTR.	1 May 1953
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The Municipal Retail Trade Institute (Miejski Handel Detaliczny - MHD) was set up at the time of the nationalization of retail businesses. There are similar institutes now in all the main towns to supervise all branches of retail trade, with the exception of large department stores. During the past few years private retail trade has been brought practically to a standstill.

2. At the beginning of 1948, when the number of government-operated retail stores was small, only one MHD existed in Warsaw and was conducted as an administrative organ with no retail stores of its own. Now there are four such organizations, one for the northern part of the city, one for the southern part, one for Warsaw-Praga, and one, set up in July 1952, for the Ulica Marszalkowska district. All four come directly under the Municipal Retail Trade Institute for the Capital (Stoleczne Biuro MHD) at 29 Boulevard Stalina, Warsaw, which in turn is directly under the Minister of Internal Trade. Piotr Ostaszewski is manager of the Ulica Marszalkowska district MHD.

Marian Ehrlich is commercial manager of the Ulica Marszalkowska district MHD.

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3. Within two months the Ulica Marszalkowska district organization comprised 18 formerly private stores and 40 newly established stores. Only one store sells photographic equipment, such as cameras, chemicals, and sensitized paper, but because supply is irregular and insufficient, the store is almost empty for weeks at a time. All the cameras offered are of German origin, imported from East Germany, and marketed through the Optical Precision Instruments Center (Centrala Precyzyjno Optyczna) at Ulica Wigury, Lodz. Included are the following types:

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	<u>Lens</u>	<u>Retail price in zloty</u>
Praktiflex	f.3.5.	1,800
Praktiflex	f.3.5 Tessar lens, suitable for technical photography	2,000

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	<u>Lens</u>	<u>Retail price in zloty</u>
Parktiflex	f.1.2 Biotar lens	2,400
Exakta	Tessar lens	3,000
Exakta	Biotar lens	3,000 and up
Bellica	f.3.5 Tessar lens	800
Velta	f.3.5 Tessar lens	650
Certa Dolina	f.2.8	1,600
Tenax	f.3.8	750
Contax		6,500

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(received in extremely limited quantities)

4. Other government operated stores sell Soviet-imported cameras bearing the trade name Kiev, which are copies of the German Contax and sell at very high prices. Soviet-made Fed and Zorka cameras, modeled on the [] are obtainable on the black market, where a good [] sells for about 15,000 zloty.
5. Basic photographic chemicals such as developers and fixing agents, plates, paper, and films produced locally by Film Polski, are obtained through the Chemical Center (Centrala Chemiczna) located outside Warsaw. Plates and paper, particularly large sizes, are in short supply.
6. Average monthly wages are about 600 zl. A man's suit of medium quality costs 1,000 zl. Textiles of top quality are almost unobtainable because they are all exported. A pair of good shoes costs 700 to 800 zl., and a good shirt about 250 zl.

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